

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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67

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 DRC-01 /131 W

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R 282035Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0582

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 2184

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT BALAGUER'S REPORTED REMARKS ON CUBA

REF: STATE 109629

1. ACCORDING TO THE MAY 20 ISSUE OF LISTIN DIARIO, PRESIDENT BALAGUER WAS QUOTED AS SAYING AT HIS MAY 19 PRESS CONFERENCE THAT THE GODR HAD NEVER ADOPTED A RIGID OR INFLEXIBLE ATTITUDE VIS-A-VIS CUBA'S EVENTUAL READMISSION INTO THE OAS AND THAT HE WOULD ACCEPT THE MAJORITY LA POSITION IN THIS REGARD. BALAGUER REPORTEDLY ADDED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAD NOT EVEN ANNOUNCED ANY INDEPENDENT POSITION "EITHER ONE WAY OR ANOTHER" ON THIS QUESTION AND THAT THE GODR SIMPLY HAD FOLLOWED THE MAJORITY LA LINE AS IT HAD TRADITIONALLY DONE IN ITS INTERNATIONAL POLICIES. WITH RESPECT TO THE POSSIBLE PRESENCE OF CUBA AT THE UPCOMING BUENOS AIRES MFM, BALAGUER REPORTEDLY SAID THAT HE HAD NO RPT NO OBJECTION TO SUCH PRESENCE.

2. BALAGUER'S MAY 19 STATEMENTS ON CUBA DO NOT, IN OUR VIEW, REFLECT A DEPARTURE FROM HIS PREVIOUS POLICY. INDEED, FOR THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS, THE GODR HAS BEEN CAREFUL BOTH PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY TO REFRAIN FROM TAKING ANTI-CUBAN POSITIONS, PRESUMABLY TO AVOID THE POSSIBILITY OF BEING LEFT OUT ON A LIMB SHOULD THE U.S. CHANGE ITS CUBA POLICY. THE

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GODR HAS CONSISTENTLY TAKEN THE POSITION THAT IT WILL ACCEPT

THE MAJORITY DECISION
OF OAS MEMBERS WITH RESPECT TO CUBA,
BUT THAT IT NOT

TAKE THE INITIATIVE TO HAVE CUBA
REINSTATED IN THAT BODY.

3. THE EMBASSY DOES NOT BELIEVE, THEREFORE, THAT IT WOULD
BE APPROPRIATE AT THIS TIME TO MAKE A SPECIAL DEMARCHE TO THE
PRESIDENT WITH RESPECT TO HIS MAY 19 STATEMENTS ON CUBA.
NONETHELESS, THE AMBASSADOR WILL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF FUTURE
CONVERSATIONS WITH PRESIDENT BALAGUER TO REITERATE TO HIM
U.S. VIEWS AND POSITIONS ON THIS ISSUE.
HURWITCH

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